

WORCESTER



TALKING BOOK
LIBRARY

Worcester Talking Book Library

3 Salem Square

Worcester, MA 01608

Phone: 1-800-768-0085 or 508-799-1730

Website: talkingbook.mywpl.org

Email: talkbook@mywpl.org

Facebook: facebook.com/worcestertalkingbook

The Worcester Talking Book Library

Thank you for your interest in the Worcester Talking Book Library (WTBL). Our service provides audio, large type, and braille books and magazines, along with the necessary equipment to use these items, to individuals who are unable to read print materials due to a visual, physical or reading disability. The program is free for anyone who qualifies. Services are made possible due to support from the National Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), and the Worcester Public Library.

Eligibility

Eligibility of blind and other print-disabled persons for loan of library materials The following people are eligible for service: residents of the United States, including territories, insular possessions, and the District of Columbia, and American citizens living abroad, provided they meet one of the following criteria:

- An individual who is blind or has a visual impairment that makes them unable to comfortably read print books.
- An individual who has a perceptual or reading disability.
- An individual who has a physical disability that makes it hard to hold or manipulate a book or to focus or move the eyes as needed to read a print book.

- WTBL also provides books for institutions such as hospitals, public and private libraries, nursing homes, day care centers, schools, and other agencies serving individuals who meet the criteria above.

What items are available?

Once approved, patrons will have access to a wide array of materials such as audiobooks and playback materials, braille, large type books, and descriptive DVDs. Patrons can also opt to download their own talking books onto their personal tablet or phone using Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD). BARD allows patrons to download books with their computers, place the file onto a cartridge and play in their talking book machine. BARD Mobile allows access through smart device. The library also offers magazines in audio, large type, and braille format, and can provide patrons access to newspapers in audio format via NFB-NEWSLINE. Materials are available for all ages and come in a variety of world languages. The library also has a small library of things, loaning out accessibility items such as magnifiers, puzzles and games.

How does it work?

Patrons can use our services in a variety of ways. Materials can be sent in the mail and returned free of postage. Patrons have the option to download items on their personal tablets or smartphones through BARD Mobile. Patrons can also download talking books from their computers and play them on provided machines.

Books can be requested in a variety of ways. Library staff can select items based on your interests. We frequently send out new book lists that you can select from and mail back. You can also call, email, or choose books through our online catalog and your own personal account.

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APPLICATION FOR FREE LIBRARY SERVICE FOR INDIVIDUALS

Library service is provided through a partnership of the MBLC and the NLS.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would like to receive occasional information about WTBL by email.

Date of Birth: _____

HEARING IMPAIRMENT: Moderate Profound

Veteran Status: By law, preference in lending materials is given to veterans. Please check box if you have been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States.

Individual to contact in the event you cannot be reached:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ Mailing Address: _____

How did you learn about the NLS free library service? Check up to three:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Affairs/
Defense Health
Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ad, (specify
below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Health Care
Professional | <input type="checkbox"/> Event/Expo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend/Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational
Rehabilitation Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio Ad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer/Support | | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet/Social Media
(specify below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TV Ad | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) |

Other: _____

Eligibility

Please check the primary disability preventing you from reading standard print.

- Blindness:** Vision 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective lens or visual field is no greater than 20 degrees.
- Visually Impaired:** Unable to read standard print without aids other than regular glasses.
- Physically Impaired:** Unable to read standard printed material due to physical disability.
- Reading Disability:** Disability must be physically based (an organic dysfunction) and of sufficient severity to prevent reading standard print.
- Deaf/Blind**

Accommodations:

- Headphones**
- Remote - useful for turning off and on for patrons with mobility issues**
- Amplifier - will need additional authorization from an audiologist**
- Pillow speakers for readers confined to bed**
- USB flash drive adapter (in order to use a personal flash drive with the player)**

Authorization Form:

I certify the applicant named has requested library service and is unable to read or use standard printed materials for the reason(s) indicated above. This document must be physically signed to be accepted.

Certifying Authority's Name: _____

Title/Occupation: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SUBJECT CATEGORIES (PARTIAL LIST)

Please mark your favorite subjects. You can always order materials from any subject area. For additional categories please call the library.

READING PREFERENCES:

No strong language No violence No explicit descriptions of sex

Languages other than English: _____

Other authors and subjects I like: _____

() *I wish to have books selected for me.*

() *Send only the specific titles I request. Do not select books for me.*

PLAYBACK EQUIPMENT:

I have a personal mobile device (iPhone, Android, iPad, or Kindle Fire) and Internet or cellular access. I want to download digital talking books and/or eBraille materials to read instantly with the free BARD Mobile application. Please provide your email address for BARD registration.

I would like to receive audiobooks and magazines on cartridges through the mail. Please loan me a free talking book player and mail me my books and magazines.

FICTION:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adventure | <input type="checkbox"/> Horror | <input type="checkbox"/> Romance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amish | <input type="checkbox"/> Humor | <input type="checkbox"/> Romance - Historical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal | <input type="checkbox"/> Romance - Spicy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bestsellers | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQI | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Fiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Interest | <input type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts Interest | <input type="checkbox"/> Sea Stories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> Short Stories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classics | <input type="checkbox"/> Mysteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erotica | <input type="checkbox"/> Mystery - Cozy | <input type="checkbox"/> Spy Stories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Stories | <input type="checkbox"/> Mystery - Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspense |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frontier & Pioneer Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Occult | <input type="checkbox"/> Thriller |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gothic Fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychological Fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> War Stories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Fiction | | <input type="checkbox"/> Westerns |

NONFICTION:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adventure | <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Nutrition | <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> History - U.S. | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autobiography | <input type="checkbox"/> History - War | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychology and Self Help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bestsellers | <input type="checkbox"/> History - World | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion - Bible Studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biography | <input type="checkbox"/> Humor | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biography - Movie Stars | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQI | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biography - Politics | <input type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts Interest | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Interest | <input type="checkbox"/> Meditation | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> True Crime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking and Housekeeping | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy | |

SACRED TEXTS:

- The Bible The Book of Mormon The Torah The Quran

ADDITIONAL SERVICES:

- NEWSLINE - telephone and online newspaper service
- Braille books and magazines
- Magazines - send more information on magazines that are available
- Music Scores - I am interested in receiving music scores

PREFERENCES:

- Braille Audiobooks
- Large Type Children's Large Type Picture Books
- Descriptive DVDs - DVDs with additional describing scenes in film
- BARD Interest - Braille and Audio Reading Download will allow users to download their own books to play on their machine, or stream audiobooks onto their IOS or Android smartphones or tablets. Users must have reliable internet, a computer and/or a smartphone or tablet.

Who should authorize my application?

Eligibility must be certified by one of the following: doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, ophthalmologist, optometrist, psychologist, registered nurse, therapist, or professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or welfare agencies (such as an educator, social worker, case worker, counselor, rehabilitation teacher, certified reading specialist, school psychologist, superintendent, or librarian).

Cost of Services

All services are free of charge thanks to funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the materials provided by the National Library Service (NLS). Most items are sent through the mail and can be returned without postage. Patrons also have the option of coming to the Main Branch of the Worcester Public Library to access materials.

Other Services

Patrons of the WTBL have access to a wide array of services through the library, including using our public space which has accessible computers. Patrons also receive information on new book releases as well as newsletters with information about the library such as programs and events.

Questions?

To participate in services, please fill out the included application. For additional questions, call us at 508-799-1730 or email us at talkbook@mywpl.org.

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